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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/582,198

06/09/2006

Yang Shen

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3977

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7590

05/14/2007

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EXAMINER

GLUCHOWSKI, KRISTINA R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3676

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/14/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/582,198

Applicant(s)

SHEN, YANG

Examiner

Kristina R. Gluchowski

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/9/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Lines 12 and 13 of the claim recite "...and the teeth of the toothed piece (3) engage with the teeth of the toothed slide (4)..." There is lack of antecedent basis for "the teeth" in both uses of the limitation above. "The teeth" are not positively claimed in claim 1. Examiner suggests deleting "the" before each use of the term "teeth" in lines 12 and 13. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Regarding claim 1, the phrase "can be" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d). "Can be" does not assert that the locking block has two positions. "Can be" merely declares the locking block is "capable of" being in two positions and requires the prior art to merely be "capable of". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Loreti (US 6119495).

7. Regarding claim 1, Loreti shows a key-changeable lock, comprising a lock housing (1), and a lock cylinder (9) provided within the lock housing, the lock cylinder including a shell (outer surface of cylinder 9) for the lock cylinder, a locking hole (10) provided on the shell and into which a key (C) can be inserted, and a locking block (23) slidably mounted on the shell, wherein a sliding block (18) is slidably provided in the shell, the locking block is abutted against the sliding block, toothed slides (17) are slidably provided within the sliding block, and a toothed piece (20) provided with a block groove (22) is slidably disposed within the shell, and wherein the locking block can be located at two working positions, and at a first working position, the locking block is not held in the block groove and the teeth of the toothed piece engage with the teeth of the toothed slide (figure 18), and at a second working position, the locking block is held in the block groove and the teeth of the toothed piece disengage from those of the toothed slide (figure 19).

8. Regarding claim 2, springs (19) are provided between the sliding block and the shell.

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9. Regarding claim 3, a compression spring (26) is provided between the toothed slide and the sliding block.
10. Regarding claim 4, the sliding direction of the sliding block is perpendicular to that of the toothed piece.
11. Regarding claim 5, a contactor (toothed slide surface where locking hole meets slide; see figure below) is fixed on the toothed slide and located within the locking hole.
12. Regarding claim 6, a locking groove (3) is provided on the lock housing; when the locking block is located at the first working position, the locking block is received in the locking groove; and each side face of the locking groove is provided with a guiding slant (see figure 18; groove 3 is shaped (slanted) like bar 23). See the Loreti device below.

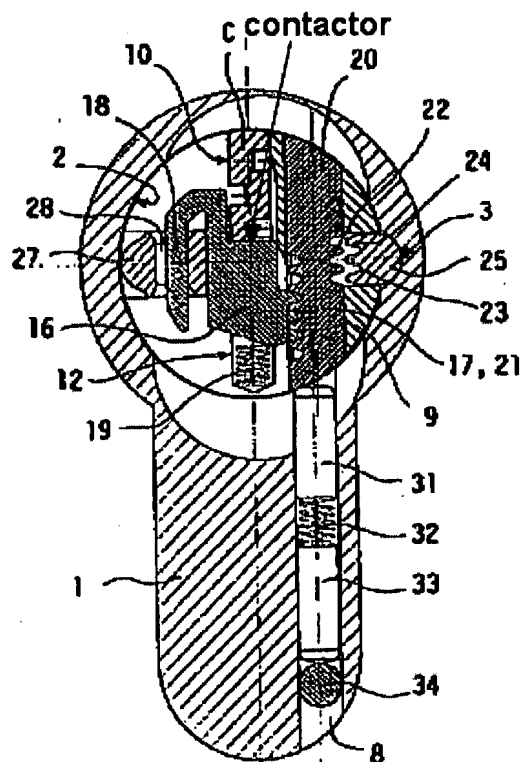


FIG. 18

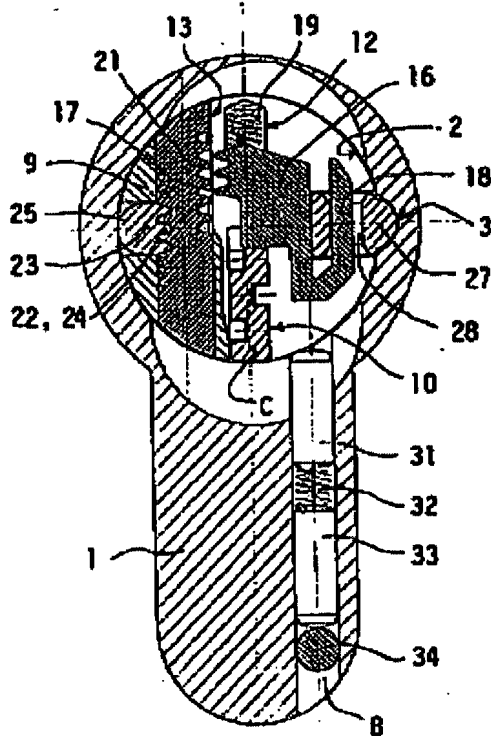


FIG. 19

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Strader (US 2005/0016234), Armstrong (US 6860131)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristina R. Gluchowski whose telephone number is 571-

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272-7376. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7am-4:30pm, alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KRG *KB*
May 9, 2007



BRIAN E. GLESSNER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER